

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 on page 12 with the following paragraph:

-- The preferred embodiment of the present invention is designed for use with relatively thick polyester webbing having a breaking force in excess of 15000lb. The thickness of the webbing is not however critical, and the webbing tie down assembly has been found to work effectively with a variety of webbing thicknesses. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the following claims without prejudice or disclaimer:

Please cancel claims 1, 4 and 5

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 2. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 18, in which at least
2 one of the first and second clamping members has a supporting surface, substantially opposite
3 the clamping surface, the supporting surface being arranged to support webbing.

1 6. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein the shaft
2 is cylindrical.

1 7. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
2 supporting surface is provided on the other clamping member for supporting webbing wrapped
3 therearound, the supporting surface being configured to prevent undue tension on webbing
4 supported thereby.

1 8. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the inner
2 frame comprises a first pair of substantially parallel inner plates, and the outer frame
3 comprises a second pair of substantially parallel outer plates, the assembly further comprising a
4 roller shaft, wherein the first pair of substantially parallel inner plates is mounted on the roller
5 shaft to pivot between the first and second positions, and wherein in the first position, the inner
6 plates of the first frame lie between the outer plates of the second frame, and wherein the
7 supporting surface extends within the boundary of the inner plates in the first position.

1 11. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 9, in which the
2 tensioning mechanism includes a pair of slots in respective ones of either the first pair of
3 substantially parallel inner plates or the second pair of substantially parallel outer plates, the
4 roller shaft extending through the pair of slots and being rigidly mounted to the other of the
5 first pair of substantially parallel inner plates or the second pair of substantially parallel outer
6 plates, so that the first frame can be displaced relative to the second frame along the length of
7 the slots.

1 13. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 11, in which the
2 roller shaft forms one of the first and second clamping members and the other of the first and
3 second clamping members is rigidly secured between the parallel plates of the frame carrying
4 the slots.

1 14. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 18, in which the
2 assembly has a first end and a second end, the first end carrying a hook mounted to the first or

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3 second frame for attachment to an object to be tied down, the hook secured to the first or
4 second frame at a pair of securing points.

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1 17. (Amended) A webbing tie down assembly as claimed in claim 15, in which the
2 supporting surface adjacent the second end of the assembly has a minimum radius of curvature
3 of 6.35mm.

Please add the following new claim:

1 18. A webbing tie down assembly, comprising:
2 an inner frame and an outer frame, the inner frame and the outer frame being arranged
3 to support webbing therein and including a clamping mechanism comprising: a first clamping
4 member supported by the inner frame and having a first clamping surface, and a second
5 clamping member supported by the outer frame and having a second clamping surface, the
6 inner frame being mounted with respect to the outer frame for movement between a first
7 position in which the first and second clamping surfaces are substantially together for clamping
8 webbing therebetween, and a second position in which the clamping surfaces are apart for
9 allowing webbing to slide therethrough; and further including a tensioning mechanism, for
10 disengaging the first and second clamping surfaces when the inner frame and outer frame are
11 in the first position to permit the webbing to slide therebetween to enable tensioning of the
12 webbing,

13 characterized in that one of the first and second clamping members comprises a
14 shaft, and the clamping surface of the other clamping member has a complementary curvature,
15 so that the clamping surfaces of the first and second clamping members lie substantially